

What is Claimed Is:

1. A system for supporting a solar panel array, the system comprising:
two pairs of columns, each pair having a first column and a second column;
a first cable suspended between the first columns;
a second cable suspended between the second columns;
a panel receiver for receiving a number of solar panels, the panel receiver adapted to be supported by the two cables.

2. The system of claim 1 wherein the first columns are relatively long columns and the second columns are relatively short columns.

3. The system of claim 1 further comprising at least one anchoring device secured to the ground outside of the columns, wherein at least one of the first cable and the second cable is secured to the anchoring device.

4. The system of claim 1 further comprising a center support column attached to one of the first cable or the second cable between the pairs of columns.

5. The system of claim 1 further comprising a stability cable coupled between the first column and the second column of at least one of the pairs of columns.

6. The system of claim 1 wherein the panel receiver comprises:
a number of curved struts;
a number of horizontal struts connected to the curved struts with moment connections.

7. The system of claim 6 wherein the panel receiver further comprises;
a number of center struts attached near the middle of the curved struts; and
a number of cable trusses having a first end and a second end, the cable trusses being connected at the first end to one end of a curved strut and at the second end to an opposite end of the same curved strut;

wherein the cable trusses are coupled between the first end and the second end to the center struts.

8. A solar panel array comprising:
a first system as in claim 1;
a second system as in claim 1; and
a stability cable coupling a column from the first system to a column from the second system.

9. A system for providing shelter and producing electricity, the system comprising:

two pairs of columns, each pair having a first column and a second column;
a first cable suspended between the first columns;
a second cable suspended between the second columns;
a panel receiver for receiving a number of solar panels, the panel receiver adapted to be supported by the two cables;

a number of solar panels received by the panel receiver;
wherein the columns are tall enough to allow a desired activity to occur beneath the panel receiver; and

wherein the cables are sufficiently long to allow the desired activity to occur between the pairs of columns.

10. The system of claim 9 wherein the first columns are relatively long columns and the second columns are relatively short columns.

11. The system of claim 9 further comprising at least one anchoring device secured to the ground outside of the columns, wherein at least one of the first cable and the second cable is tensioned by use of the anchoring device.

12. The system of claim 9 further comprising a center support column attached to one of the first cable and the second cable between the pairs of columns.

13. The system of claim 9 further comprising a stability cable coupled between the first column and the second column of at least one of the pairs of columns.

14. The system of claim 9 wherein the panel receiver comprises:
a number of curved struts;
a number of horizontal struts connected to the curved struts with moment connections.

15. The system of claim 14 wherein the panel receiver further comprises;
a number of center struts attached near the middle of the curved struts; and
a number of cable trusses having a first end and a second end, the cable trusses being connected at the first end to one end of a curved strut and at the second end to an opposite end of the same curved strut;
wherein the cable trusses are coupled between the first end and the second end to the center struts.

16. A system for supporting a solar panel array, the system comprising:
first, second, third and fourth anchor points;
a first support cable suspended between the first and second anchor points;
a second support cable suspended between the third and fourth anchor points; and
a solar panel receiver adapted to receive a solar panel and further adapted to couple to the first support cable and the second support cable;
wherein the anchor points are spaced and disposed such that the solar panel receiver may be supported by the first support cable and the second support cable.

17. The system of claim 16 wherein the panel receiver comprises:
a number of curved struts;
a number of horizontal struts connected to the curved struts with moment connections.

18. The system of claim 17 wherein the panel receiver further comprises;
a number of center struts attached near the middle of the curved struts; and
a number of cable trusses having a first end and a second end, the cable trusses
being connected at the first end to one end of a curved strut and at the second end to an
opposite end of the same curved strut;

wherein the cable trusses are secured between the first end and the second end to
the center struts.

19. A method of supporting a solar panel array comprising:
providing a first support cable and a second support cable;
disposing the first support cable and the second support cable such that the cables
are generally parallel in their respective axial directions;

providing a solar panel receiver adapted to receive a solar panel and adapted to
receive the first support cable and the second support cable; and

securing the solar panel receiver to the first support cable and the second support
cable.

20. A method of providing a sheltered space, the method comprising:
disposing a solar panel array above the space by the use of a number of support
cables, the solar panel array providing at least some shade and shelter to the sheltered
space;

generating electricity using the solar panel array;

generating a cooling effect in the sheltered space through the use of at least some
of the electricity.